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GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Letter dated 18 March 1995 from the Permanent Representatives of Belgium and Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you a brief summary report of the Workshop on Indicators of Sustainable Development for Decision-Making held in Ghent, Belgium, from 9 to 11 January 1995 (see annex).

This report seeks to sum up the main findings and conclusions reached by the participants at this Workshop, which was organized by the Belgian and Costa Rican Governments, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), and included in the list of meetings relevant to the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1994-1995. We would be grateful if this letter together with its annex could be made available to the Commission as an official document.

The record of the Workshop, including the debate with non-governmental organizations and the compilation of full texts provided for the Workshop, will

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be presented at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (11-28 April 1995).

(Signed) M. Alex REYN
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
(Belgium)

(Signed) Fernando BERROCAL
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
(Costa Rica)

ANNEX

Workshop on Indicators of Sustainable Development for Decision-Making

(Ghent, 9-11 January 1995)

I MAIN FINDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

The Belgian and Costa Rican Governments, UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), and SCOPE (the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment) have decided to organise this Workshop in the recognition that there is a need to develop commonly accepted indicators of sustainable development to provide solid bases for decision-making at all levels and to contribute to a self-regulating sustainability of integrated environment and socio-economic systems. What is lacking is a global process to arrive at a common approach and consensus on the technical validity, comparability and political acceptability of indicator use.

This growing need for sustainable development indicators has been widely expressed by policy and decision-makers in national governments, business and industry, and by NGOs. Chapter 40 of Agenda 21 recognizes this need, stating that commonly used indicators such as GNP and measures of resource and pollution flows do not provide adequate indications of sustainability. Non-governmental organizations are called upon to develop the concept of indicators (Ch. 40.6), to cooperate with UN bodies in using a suitable set of sustainable development indicators and in harmonizing the development of indicators at all levels (Ch.40.7).

In its first session after the UNCED Conference, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) called for indicators that would provide a basis for meaningful assessment of progress towards sustainable development, for possible integration into its national reporting and analytical processes (CSD Reports, 1993, 1994).

Responding to this high demand, governmental and non-governmental organizations on all levels have begun using, developing or planning to develop indicators of sustainable development. Many organizations work in this area as part of national sustainability plans and programs or respond to their own needs in policy and decision-making, while other organizations, particularly UNSTAT and UNEP, respond to their mandates or specific UN requests. A great deal of significant work in this area has been undertaken by national and international organizations, and by governments.

The purpose of the Workshop was to contribute to the development of environmental, social and economic indicators for the implementation of Agenda 21 as a larger process. It will thus review indicators on the three principal aspects of sustainability and discuss the links between them. In order to enlighten the discussions, the first paper of this brochure, entitled "The Role of Indicators in Decision-Making," was jointly prepared by UNEP and the UN Division for

Sustainable Development, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD).

Environmental components of sustainable development are among the most difficult to adequately reflect in national-level indicators and, consequently, the area of greatest need. Therefore, a second discussion paper focused on environmental indicators, entitled "Environmental Indicators: A Systematic Approach to Measuring and Reporting on the Environment in the Context of Sustainable Development", was prepared for this Workshop by the Project on Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE). SCOPE aims to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21 by developing recommendations for highly aggregated indicators on the macro-level that are policy relevant, scientifically valid, and technically achievable.

The Workshop brought together about 50 participants, aiming at a balanced representation among countries and among information producers and users of national-level sustainability indicators (particularly high-level policy-makers in national governments). The Workshop did not target environmental policy-makers alone, but also, and perhaps more importantly, those in the field of social and economic development. Twenty representatives of the 13 Governments invited by Belgium have taken part in the discussions, 13 of them being from non-OECD countries and 7 from OECD countries. Eleven representatives from eight intergovernmental organizations also participated. The scientific community was represented by eight members of SCOPE and the NGO community by the New Economics Foundation and the IUCN Eastern African Regional Office. Belgium, as a host country, was represented by delegates from its National and Regional Commissions on Sustainable Development. This diverse combination of participants allowed a stimulating exchange between a sample of decision-makers from national governments who will be the ultimate users of indicators, experts who are designing indicators, and the organisations who will need to implement work programmes in this area.

II CONCLUSIONS

The Workshop reaches the following conclusions :

1. The usefulness of Indicators of Sustainable Development (ISDs) as mentioned in Agenda 21 has been confirmed by the Workshop. The potential uses of ISDs include alerting decision-makers to priority issues, guiding policy formulation, simplifying and improving communication, and fostering a common understanding of key trends with a view to initiating necessary national action. The primary focus and purpose of ISDs as discussed in this Workshop is to facilitate decision-making at the national level. They should be considered as useful tools that countries can decide to use (or not) as

sources of information on progress towards their own targets for sustainable development.

2. The economic, social, environmental and institutional aspects of sustainable development should be equally emphasized in the framework for indicators of sustainable development and the development of a core set of indicators be a balanced and truly global effort.

3. Conceptual frameworks, such as the pressure-state-response framework, are recognized as potentially useful to organize and guide ISD development. However, the Workshop also found a need to try out such frameworks so as to gain greater experience with them, and to emphasize that nations may interpret them flexibly and take into account the different development levels of individual nations.

4. Similarly, the need for aggregation has been recognized in order to avoid being lost in a sea of information. More experience, and extensive international consultation to share that experience, are needed.

5. The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) should consider making available to Governments the methodology for a core set of indicators in the form of a set of methodology sheets. Such a core set would constitute a menu from which countries could select the indicators that they may use in their national policies, according to their own problems, priorities and targets. Use of a common methodology will facilitate international compilation. It will also guide data collection. Practice (e.g., in the European Union) has shown that harmonization of methodology at a later stage is a very time-consuming and cumbersome activity.

6. More experience should be gained with the use of the indicators included in the core set. It was recommended that they be tested in some countries or regions on a voluntary basis and, where necessary, adjusted.

7. It is evident that the core set must be seen as a flexible, evolving tool. It may change according to further experience gained. The selection of indicators of the core set may vary from country to country and from region to region. Besides, new indicators may need to be included, e.g., following implementation of international agreements and based on countries' experiences.

8. Indicators, as used in national policies, may be used in national reports to the CSD and other intergovernmental bodies. This may simplify the reporting burden that is perceived as heavy and sometimes duplicative. The progress made towards national targets is what should receive attention.

9. The Workshop stressed the importance of and need for capacity-building programmes related to the introduction of indicators, covering the whole field from data collection to use in policy processes.

10. National statistical services and other appropriate institutions and the UN Statistical Division (UNSTAT) should in routine data collection begin to include data series needed to calculate ISDs and contribute to research, development and harmonization of appropriate indicators. It was recognised that some indicators will require new data. The Statistical Commission of the UN is urged to support this work by approving a first international survey of environmental indicators at its forthcoming session in February/March 1995.

11. The workshop urged the participating UN Agencies (DPCSD, UNEP, UNDP, UNSTAT) to continue their cooperative and synergistic work in support of the development and use of ISDs.

12. Participants at the Workshop recognized that the indicators proposed so far are not yet adequate measures of long-term sustainability. The scientific community, including the SCOPE project on ISDs, should focus their efforts on improved indicators of sustainability which include the integration of and linkages among economic, social, environmental and cultural dimensions of sustainability, and the approaches to aggregation of indicators into policy-relevant indices.

13. The Workshop participants invited the Governments of Belgium and Costa Rica to present the results of the Workshop to the Third Session of the CSD and to disseminate them widely.

14. The participants thanked the Governments of Belgium and Costa Rica, the United Nations Environment Programme and SCOPE for the excellent arrangements made for the conference and the warm hospitality extended to them.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTER: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Letter dated 3 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

From 20 to 22 February 1995, the Netherlands hosted the International Workshop on Integrated Land Mangement.

The Workshop was an inter-sessional meeting, held to prepare for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (11-28 April 1995), which will discuss integrated land management as one of its sectoral themes.

I have the honour to transmit to you the report of the Workshop (see annex) and would appreciate if you could arrange for the report to be circulated as an official document for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its current session, under item 6 of its agenda.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AGENDA 21 - CHAPTER 10

Integrated Planning and Management of Land Resources

International Agricultural Centre,
Wageningen, the Netherlands
February 20-22, 1995

Conclusions and Recommendations of the workshop

. Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries
. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
. Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands, in cooperation with
. the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

The International workshop on Agenda 21 - Chapter 10: Integrated Planning and Management of Land Resources was held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, from 20 - 22 february 1995. The objective of the workshop, for which the initiative was jointly taken by FAO and the Government of the Netherlands, was

(i) to formulate recommendations and policy options on the implementation of Chapter 10 to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) for consideration at its third session in April 1995, and

(ii) to exchange knowledge and experience on the planning and management of land resources.

The workshop was attended by more than 80 senior officials from 32 countries from all regions, 6 intergovernmental organizations and 6 non-governmental organizations.

Chapter 10 calls for an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources through re-organizing and, where necessary, strengthening of decision-making structures, including policies and planning and management structures. Such an approach recognizes the need for participation of all stakeholders in land use decision making, and bridges the gap between the production and income objectives of land users and the long term objective of preserving natural resources. Chapter 10 has an umbrella function for the other land-related chapters which deal with forests, mountains, desertification and sustainable agriculture and rural development as more specific forms of land use. It has, therefore, many linkages with the other chapters, but clearly has its own objectives for the integrated process of planning and management of land resources, as set out in para. 10.5:

(i) to review and develop policies to support the best possible use of land and the sustainable management of land resources, by not later than 1996;

(ii) to improve and strengthen planning, management and evaluation systems for land and land resources, by not later than 2000;

(iii) to strengthen institutions and coordinating mechanisms for land and land resources, by not later than 1998;

(iv) to create mechanisms to facilitate the active involvement and participation of all concerned, particularly communities and people at the local level, in decision-making on land use and management, by not later than 1996.

The workshop had selected the following three themes for discussion:

(i) the integration of objectives and policy formulation for planning and management of land resources in rural areas,

(ii) managing a planning process for the use of land resources in rural areas with all stakeholders, and

(iii) possibilities for sustainable economic development in rural areas, with emphasis on non-traditional uses of land.

These were also the subjects of the keynote addresses and of the working groups and were elaborated on in the Issues-Paper prepared by the Winand Staring Centre for Ingrated Land, Soil and Water Research in Wageningen. The workshop took the "meso-level" (intermediate between central government and local community) as a starting point for analysis of the possibilities of integration of goals. During the discussions it was recognized that, given the specific characteristics of regions, a ranking of goals (ecological, economic, social) has to be made.

The workshop had before it the Issues-Paper mentioned earlier and the background paper Planning for Sustainable Use of Land Resources: Towards a New Approach, prepared by FAO. Furthermore, 31 completed questionnaires on a specific national case of intermediate-level planning and management of land resources were returned by participants, of which a summary was presented and made available to the workshop. These cases showed the progress achieved by individual countries in the implementation of Chapter 10. The full report of the workshop will contain an extensive summary of the cases. It is planned to also prepare a more extensive study on the cases. Both activities can be regarded as a contribution to the fullfilment of the requirements set forth in para. 10.12.d.

The workshop actively discussed, especially in the working groups, many items relating to the integrated approach to planning and management of land resources and agreed upon a set of conclusions and recommendations. The country cases submitted by the participants turned out to be a valuable source of information for additional recommendations on the implementation of Chapter 10. A number of recommendations are already included in the text of Chapter 10 or other Chapters of the land cluster. The outcome of the discussions emphasized the importance of many of these recommendations, but these are not repeated in the present document. The other recommendations that were formulated by the meeting are either a further specification of existing points in Chapter 10, or are new and additional points; these are included in the present document.

Discussions were held in the spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's terrestrial ecosystems. Referring to principle 7 of the Rio declaration it was recognized that States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear for the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the technologies and financial resources they command. Concerning the latter aspect reference was also made to Chapter 33, para' s 33.13 and 33.14.

The Government of the Netherlands will present the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop to the Intersessional Meeting on Sectorial Subjects in March 1995 and to the third session of the CSD in April 1995, and will request that this document be considered as an official document for these meetings.

PART TWO: RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants of the workshop submit the following recommendations to the Commission on Sustainable Development. In this regard they recognize that recoomendations should be tailored to the particular situation within countries. National integrated land resources planning strategies must recognise differences relating to:

- Rural vs. urban needs;
- Regular vs. emergency situations;
- Variations in preparedness in terms of the state of development of legislation. policies, institutions, concern for biodiversity as against other demands on land resources, and public participation in planning and decision-making.

All countries are committed to the timetable for chapter 10 but various constraints mean that some countries will take longer to meet the objectives fully and will have to intensify efforts to achieve them.

1. INTEGRATION OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICY FORMULATION FOR LAND USE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES IN RURAL AREAS.

Under this theme the workshop participants recommend that:

1.1. Governments develop a framework or guidance to implementing agencies for integrated land use planning and management including explicit aims and taking into account what has been achieved so far.

1.2. Governments review land tenure arrangements or legislation with the objective of providing long-term security on the land, taking into account the needs of all stakeholders, especially the farmers and all those that are effectively involved in the agricultural sector, both men and women.

1.3. Governments review economic policies and revise economic instruments to reinforce the positive consequences and decrease the negative consequences of public and private activities for sustainable management of land resources.

1.4. To provide the investment in rural areas that is needed to implement Agenda 21, governments assess and, if necessary, redress the balance of resource flows between rural and urban areas.

1.5. For targetting common sustainable development goals and an integrated approach, governments not only review the mandates of institutions but also pool budgets of sectors.

1.6. To cope with emergency situations beyond the normal planning scenario, governments provide for a rapid alert and response capability.

1.7. Governments formulate and adopt legal and technical adjustment mechanisms for the effective promotion of and the support to the stability of agricultural land use, and for sustaining competition and complementarity, in economic terms, of agriculture and other forms of land use.

1.8. Governments design land valuation systems and standards for agriculture that will quantify the social, economic, environmental and demographic impacts associated with the transfer of productive arable land to other uses.

1.9. Governments and international organizations cooperate in identifying national and international sustained sources of funding to carry out integrated land use planning and management with full stakeholder participation.

1.10. The various forms and degrees of land degradation, their socio-economic causes and effects, particularly poverty, need to be given prominance in al programmes for integrated planning and management of land and water resources, taking into account the linkages with the aims of other relevant Chapters of Agenda 21, such as 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 18.

2. MANAGING A PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE USE OF LAND RESOURCES OF RURAL AREAS WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Under this theme the workshop participants recommend that:

2.1. Governments promote capacity building, including leadership skills, so that communities and people's organizations, with special attention to women and youth, can participate in, or initiate local land use planning. Funding for upgrading of technical skills and training will be needed.

2.2. Governments focus on financial support for a catalytic approach to start community participation processes at all levels. This should include capacity building of grassroot-level and voluntary associations. Financial support can be more effective if it addresses causes instead of symptoms.

2.3. Governments incorporate indigenous knowledge and methods of land resources management into their policies and development programs and assist people's organizations to do likewise. Research will be needed to uncover this knowledge and incorporate it into formal data bases and planning procedures.

2.4. Governments develop criteria and performance indicators for sustainable land use, allowing flexibility for sub-national and local variations.

2.5. Governments establish and strengthen conflict resolution mechanisms, in particular at the local level.

2.6. If land reforms are considered necessary, these should be introduced in a gradual and progressive manner so as to maintain a minimum support of all stakeholders.

2.7. Governments cooperate on funding, training and technical support involving multilateral, regional, U.N., NGO, farmers' organisations and bilateral external support agencies.

2.8. No set planning procedure is applicable in all situations. International and national organisations should develop modular planning tools so that specific combinations of modules can be applied to individual situations. Workshops for land use planning should be conducted to familiarise policy makers and technical specialists with these new tools.

2.9. Stakeholders at the meso-level should be informed by their national authorities about the framework within which they participate in the planning process and about the extent to which they can influence the framework itself as well as the outcome of the planning process.

2.10. Public authorities should enter into partnerships with stakeholders to produce local plans and action strategies for development, for the security of individuals, and for the allevation of poverty; they should provide the link between broader land use and sectoral planning, bringing together the resources necessary to achieve optimal results.

2.11. Governments and organizations recognize differences in interests of stakeholders and their representative NGO's and, in particular, to ensure incorporation of legitimate concerns and participation by land users including women.

3. POSSIBILITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS.

Under this theme the workshop participants recommend that:

3.1. Governments provide a national framework to assess the costs and benefits of different land use options or developments.

3.2. For any public intervention or expenditure (a tax, a subsidy, a regulation, a program of activities, an investment project), governments select at least one performance indicator and monitor it.

3.3. Governments follow sound macro-economic and effective poverty reduction policies as a necessary condition for more sustainable management of land resources. An enabling legal framework is also required.

3.4. Governments use economic instruments to express environmental costs and benefits in market prices, whereby all land resource users will be enabled to take account of environmental costs and benefits in their decision making.

3.5. Where environmental costs and benefits cannot be fully captured in taxes, subsidies or other economic instruments, governments provide incentives for voluntary action by land resource users, or use regulations to enable land resource users to take account of environmental costs and benefits in their decision making, with due consideration for the administrative costs of these regulations.

3.6. Economic instruments will be necessary but are, often, insufficient to promote improved land use. When complementary measures are required, projects should be designed accordingly, including activities such as formation and promotion of groups of land users, technology dissemination, field demonstrations, capacity building of user groups and of government support services and adaptive research institutions.

3.7. Where new economic "carriers" are considered necessary for sustainable development of rural areas, projects should be designed to include activities such as ecotourism, joint wildlife management with local communities, joint forest management with local communities, watershed management (with upstream conservation funded by downstream beneficiaries of more regular flows, reduced silt load, and improved water quality), and nature reserves and parks (with employment generated by the policing function). More generally, governments promote labour-intensive growth throughout the economy, and reverse discrimination against rural areas in the allocation of public expenditure to health, education and infrastructure.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTER: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Letter dated 6 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the final document of the Regional Workshop on the Definition of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests, held in Tarapoto, Peru, from 23 to 25 February 1995 (see annex).

The workshop was convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, in its capacity as Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, States Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty attended the workshop. Also attending were technicians from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the European Union and the World Resources Institute, which sponsored the event. Technicians from the United Nations Development Programme and national institutions and entities also attended, as observers.

I would be grateful if you could make arrangements to circulate the report as an official document of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, to be held in New York.

(Signed) Fernando GUILLÉN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Peru
to the United Nations

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Annex

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE DEFINITION OF CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF AMAZONIAN FORESTS

FINAL DOCUMENT

Tarapoto, Peru, February 25, 1995

In response to the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, in its position as *Pro-Tempore* Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, Countries Party of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, advised by outstanding experts from the region, met at the "Regional Workshop on the Definition of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests", held in the city of Tarapoto, Peru, from February 23rd to 25th 1995. The event was attended by technicians from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the European Union (EU) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), which sponsored the event; and from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and national institutions and entities as observers,

The representatives of the Countries Party of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty:

In compliance with the commitments undertaken in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, especially the text of Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, and mindful of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Declaration of Principles for a World Consensus on Planning, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests,

Inspired by the mandates established in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, whose First Article establishes that "The Contracting Parties accord to pool their efforts and hold joint actions to promote the harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories, in such a way that these joint actions produce fair and mutually advantageous results, and entail the preservation of the environment and the conservation and rational use of the natural resources of these territories",

Aware of the importance of the Amazonian forests for each of the countries and re-assessing this geographical area as a human habitat,

Convinced of the enormous capacity for the creation of wealth of the Amazonian forest, which can and must be used sustainably to the benefit of the respective national economies, with the purpose of overcoming poverty,

Recognising similarly the importance of the Amazonian forest in maintaining world environment processes,

Highlighting the great convergence of interests of the Countries Party of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty,

Decide to formulate and recommend to their respective governments the adoption of the following

TARAPOTO PROPOSAL ON CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF AMAZONIAN FORESTS

Whereas:

The international debate on forests must bear in mind that the Amazonian ecosystems form part of territories under the jurisdiction of states where these fully exercise their sovereignty.

It is fundamental that besides its purely environmental aspects, the importance of the forest as an economic, cultural and social potential is recognised.

The economic dimension of the forest encompasses the natural forest heritage, including mineral reserves, sources of energy, tourist potential and the possibilities of human occupation for productive activities. The social and cultural dimension consists in its being a "habitat" of people, native or other, who depend on it for their livelihood and cultural development.

The sustainable use of the forest should be fostered, for its positive environmental, economic and social effects, but for this purpose timely and sufficient access to forest product markets is indispensable.

Forest management must reconcile the imperative of its economic valuation, which is to the benefit of national societies, with proper environmental protection.

Economic activity in the forest can be made compatible with the sustainable use of natural resources, via national development strategies. These should be designed to include a wider concept of the balance of costs and benefits, contemplating social equity, greater technological efficiency in production, the conservation of natural resources, respect for the cultural values of local populations and for their knowledge of the traditional use of the forests.

The Amazon has a population of 22 million, of which 60 percent are concentrated in the urban areas. The remainder are farmers, settlers, miners and indigenous populations.

The economic and social development of the population living in the Amazon must be compatible with the need to preserve the natural resources and the environment. Both criteria are complementary and fundamental elements in the development strategy.

As we approach the 21st century, the need to make real efforts for the sustainable development of the Amazon is becoming a high international priority and a challenge based on the sustainable development proposals of the Countries Party of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which together possess over half the world's tropical forests.

The Amazon countries are those most interested in the sustainable management of the forest. To accomplish this they need, among other things, improved institutional capacity, fairer prices for their products, the elimination of trade barriers and compensation for global environmental services.

Bearing in mind that one of the characteristics of the international economic order in the last twenty years has been the collapse of real raw materials prices, the Countries Party of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty accord that the trend to the imposition of tariff and other barriers must be reversed. These include discriminatory criteria such as the imposition of environmental conditions on tropical timber imports, especially those of high aggregate value.

Biological diversity, as a permanent source of resources, is an immense potential for the sustainable development of the region. Ensuring the sustainable production of the forest, through careful forest management techniques, is one of the main opportunities for conserving the region's biological diversity while not displacing economic development.

The harmonization of the forest policies of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty member countries should be encouraged, to define a concerted strategy which permits the establishment of principles for creating a basis of medium- and long-term commitments with the collaboration of the international community.

The identification of criteria and indicators for the sustainability of the Amazonian forests is an important step in the process of formulating sustainable proposals for use, compatible with economic and social development, and based on environmental criteria in which the Countries Party of the Amazon Cooperation.

Treaty establish within their respective Amazon territories the mechanisms for the qualitative and quantitative measurement of sustainability.

The representatives of the Countries Party of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, with the purpose of contributing to the regional debate, present a set of twelve criteria and indicators for Amazonian forest sustainability, which may be revised and enriched periodically by national and regional level consultations, in order to incorporate progress in the concept of forest management and new technology.

LIST OF CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF AMAZONIAN FORESTS

1. NATIONAL LEVEL

CRITERION 1: SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Indicators of Income, Production and Consumption

a. Economic profitability of management and sustainable use of the forests.

b. Sustainable production, consumption and extraction of forest products.

c. Values of forest products from sustainable sources and from unsustainable sources as percentages of Gross National Product.

d. Employment and direct and indirect income from sustainable activities in the forest sector and generation of forest-based employment in relation to total national employment.

e. Average per capita income in different forest sector activities.

f. Efficiency and competitiveness of forest product production and processing systems.

g. Impact of the economic use of forests on the availability of forest resources of importance to local populations.

h. Relationship between direct and indirect uses of the forests.

Indicators of Investment and Economic Growth in the Forest Sector

a. Annual investment in plantations, sustainable forest management and conservation in relation to total forest sector investment.

b. Aggregate value of sustainable forest sector production.

c. Rate of return on investment of the distinct economic activities in the sustainable forest sector, compared with rates of return in other sectors of the economy, considering all costs and benefits.

d. Rate of increase of sustainable recreation and tourism activities.

Indicators of Cultural, Social and Spiritual Needs and Values

a. Area and percentage of forest lands, in relation to total forest lands area, managed to protect cultural, social and spiritual needs and values.

b. Area and percentage of forest lands use for purposes of supporting local populations.

c. Level of participation of local populations in the management and in the benefits generated by forest activities.

d. Development of productive alternatives to illicit crops and mining.

CRITERION 2: POLICIES AND LEGAL-INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORESTS

Indicators:

a. Appropriate political and legal framework that stimulates sustainable development as a joint effort between the various levels of government and non-governmental groups.

b. Policies and legal framework for environmental planning through ecological-economic zoning.

c. Capacity to implement international instruments on which the country is part.

d. Harmonization and implementation of existing legislation in the country.

CRITERION 3: SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCTION

Indicators:

a. Extension and proportion of forest lands and forests dedicated to sustainable production in relation to the total permanent production area.

b. Quantity and proportion of sustainable forest production in comparison with the national total forest production.

c. Quantity and proportion of units of sustainable production, by area class, in comparison with the national total number of units.

d. Area and percentage of forest lands managed for recreation and tourism, in relation to total forest area.

e. Level of diversification of sustainable forest production.

CRITERION 4: CONSERVATION OF FOREST COVER AND OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Indicators:

a. Area, by forest type, in categories of protected areas, in relation to total forest area.

b. Measures for "in situ" conservation of species in danger of extinction.

c. Measures for the conservation of genetic resources.

d. Area and percentage of forest affected by processes or other agents (insect attack, disease, fire, flooding etc.)

e. Rate of natural regeneration, species composition and survival.

f. Rate of conversion of forest cover to other uses.

g. Area and percentage of forest lands with fundamental ecological changes.

h. Impact of activities in other sectors on the conservation of forest ecosystems (mining, ranching, energy, infrastructure, etc.).

CRITERION 5: CONSERVATION AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Indicators:

a. Measures for soil conservation.

b. Area and percentage of forest lands managed for environmental protection.

c. Percentage of forest flooded in relation to the historic range of variation, and maintenance of the relationship between the forest and hydrobiological resources.

d. Effects of forest conservation on the integrated management of water resources.

CRITERION 6: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORESTS.

Indicators:

a. Quantity and quality of adequate technology for forest management and sustainable production.

b. Level of recuperation and degree of use of autochthonous technologies.

c. Investment in research, education and technology transfer.

d. Quantity and quality of research and sustainable development in execution.

e. Mechanisms for remuneration for traditional knowledge.

f. Degree of access to technology and information by different social groups.

CRITERION 7: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AMAZONIA

Indicators:

a. Quantity and quality of institutions and of their intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination.

b. Existence of plans and their degree of execution.

c. Quantity and quality of education and research programs.

d. Degree of effective participation by civil society academic institutions, grassroots groups, NGOs, trades unions and the private sector).

II. MANAGEMENT UNIT LEVEL

CRITERION 8: LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Indicators:

a. Forest management plan approved by the competent authorities.

b. Periodicity of evaluation of management plan implementation and average percentage of implementation.

c. Legal framework that guarantees the stability of long-term investments in the forest sector.

CRITERION 9: SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCTION

Indicators:

a. Annual extraction of timber and non-timber forest products compatible with the sustainability capacity of the resource base.

b. Area and percentage of forest soils affected by significant alterations in physical-chemical properties and erosion.

c. Effectiveness of systems of administration and control.

d. Degree of diversification of production.

e. Degree of utilization of environmentally friendly technologies.

CRITERION 10: CONSERVATION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Indicators:

a. Proportion of area of permanent production in areas of environmental protection.

b. Measures to protect, recuperate and sustainably use wild populations of species in danger of extinction.

c. Area and percentage of forest affected by processes or other natural agents (insect attack, disease, fire, etc.) and by human actions.

d. Rates of regeneration and forest ecosystem structure.

e. Soil conservation measures.

f. Measures for protection of water courses from forest activities.

CRITERION 11: LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Indicators:

a. Quality of life of local populations.

b. Profitability and rate of return of forest management.

c. Efficiency of systems of production and transformation of forest products.

d. Impact of the economic use of the forest on the availability of forest resources of importance to local populations.e. Amount of direct and indirect employment, and income level.

f. Nature and quantity of benefits deriving from forest management.

g. Annual quantity of products extracted per hectare.

h. Aggregate value of production.

i. Mechanisms for consultation and the effective participation of local communities in the management of forest resources, depending upon the scale of management.

III. SERVICES AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

CRITERION 12: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PERFORMED BY AMAZONIAN FORESTS

Indicators:

a. Contribution to satisfying the global demand for sustainably produced timber and non-timber forest products.

b. Contribution to the global carbon balance.

c. Contribution to the global water cycle.

d. Contribution to the conservation of biological diversity.

e. Contribution to radiation balance and regulation.

f. Contribution to the maintenance of cultural values and diversity, and of indigenous and local populations' knowledge.

g. Contribution to the economy, health, culture, science and recreation.

Tarapoto, February 25, 1995